

THE GARCIA HOUSE
Corner Closson and Alto Streets,
Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, New Mexico.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Southwest District

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

John Gaw Meem, District Officer,
Camino del Monte Sol, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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THE GARCIA HOUSE

Corner Closson and Alto Streets, Santa Fe, New Mexico

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Owner: Estate of Marcelino Garcia, Manuel Delgado, executor,
403 Canyon Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Date of Erection: Circa 1838.

Architect: None.

Builder: Don Felix Garcia.

Present Condition: Fair. Original building remodeled, interior and exterior. Several additions to original building.

Number of Stories: One.

Materials of Construction: Foundations, field stone and adobe mortar; floors, pine; exterior and interior walls, adobe brick and adobe mortar; roof, composition and metal over adobe soil. Exterior and interior plastered with cement and lime plaster, respectively. Original roof was six to eight inches of adobe soil over hewed plank spanning exposed vigas and hewed timber beams. Exterior plaster originally adobe mortar applied by hand. Interior plaster was originally adobe mortar, hand applied, with a thin finish coat of native gypsum (yeso).

Other Existing Records: None available.

Additional Data: The building has been remodeled so many times and has had several additions recently constructed so that, as it stands today, it is very different from what it was originally. This being the case, it was thought that restoration drawings, based on observations at the building and information obtained verbally, showing, as nearly as possible, the building as originally built, would be sufficient to indicate its original status.

The house was constructed around an inner court (patio) by native workmen under the supervision of Don Felix Garcia and his foreman, name unknown. The portal (porch) on all sides of the patio is still existing and was constructed with native log columns, supporting hewed corbels and beams which supported vigas over which were hewed planks to carry the six to eight inches of adobe soil, used as a roof. The house is typical of the type constructed in Santa Fe by the natives at that time; namely, tamped earth floors, adobe brick walls, about 20 inches thick,

laid in adobe mortar and with a roof of adobe soil on hewed plank laid across hewed beams and vigas (logs) which spanned from wall to wall. The roof was graded to short logs gouged out on top to form a trough or spout extending through the adobe parapet walls. The exterior was plastered with adobe. This was white-washed above a low dado of the portals in the patio and Zaguans (passageways). The interior walls were plastered with adobe mortar over which was applied a thin finish coat of native gypsum (yeso). Most of the rooms had a small adobe fireplace in one corner of the room. There was a well near the center of the patio, also one south of the house. This was used for watering the stock. The exposed woodwork was not painted but left unfinished. It soon turned a soft gray by weathering. The doors, door frames, window frames, corbels, beams, etc., were all hewed from native logs. The windows and house furnishings were purchased in St. Louis, Missouri, and were freighted over the Santa Fe Trail to Santa Fe by ox team. The square rosewood piano and several pieces of the walnut furniture are in the house today.

The house was built at the northeast corner of a large tract of land containing many acres. The land was enclosed by a thick adobe wall several feet in height. Don Felix Garcia planted many trees on the estate. These have been destroyed.

Historical data furnished the writer by Juan G. Sena, great grandson of Don Felix Garcia, who lives in part of the present house and Benigno Muniz, 718 College Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mrs. Isabel Montoya, a descendant of Don Felix Garcia, lives with her family in a portion of the original house. A portion of the house is unoccupied at present.

Trent Thomas

Trent Thomas,

Architect in Charge,
HABS, Southwest Unit.

Approved *John G. Meen* 1940.

John G. Meen
John Gaw Meen,
District Officer.

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